

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAM-01 EUR-25 IO-14 AID-20

DRC-01 /168 W

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R 040830Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6355

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3524

KABUL FOR NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE

BEIRUT FOR BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: IR, SA, MARR, PFOR

SUBJ: SAG STATEMENT ON GULF SECURITY AND SUEZ CANAL

1. DURING DCM'S CALL ON MFA AMERICAN DESK OFFICER HATEF MAY
2, LATTER PRODUCED AFP REPORT OF MOD SULTAN'S QUESTION AND ANSWER
SESSION WITH NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE. SAUDI DOMESTIC RADIO REPORT
OF MEETING CARRIED BY FBIS, LONDON, 30 APRIL.

2. HATEF ASKED IF WE COULD CLARIFY SULTAN'S REMARKS ON IRAN'S
MILITARY BUILDUP AND ITS EFFECT ON GULF REGION. HE ALSO
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SULTAN'S REMARKS ON OPENING OF SUEZ
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CANAL.

3. DCM REPLIED THAT IRANIAN INQUIRY WOULD BETTER BE DIRECTED TO SAUDIS. HE AGREED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER REPORT WAS ACCURATE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION FROM JIDDA AS TO ACCURACY OF FBIS REPORT QUOTED BELOW. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY MAY WISH TO SUPPLY ON FYI BASIS OR FOR PASSING TO HATEF.

5. QTE REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON IRAN'S BUILDING UP OF ITS ARMED FORCES AND ITS EFFECT ON THE GULF REGION, HIS HIGHNESS SAID: WHAT PLEASES US IS TO SEE THE FRATERNAL MOSLEM IRAN GROW STRONGER, FOR ITS SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF A VACUUM OR THAT THERE IS A STATE WHICH HAS THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE STABILITY IN ANY PART IN THE GULF. THEREFORE, WE CONSIDER THAT IRAN'S STRENGTH IS FOR ITS SECURITY, STABILITY AND PROGRESS, WHICH PLEASES US, AND THE SECURITY OF THE GULF IS A MATTER THAT CONCERNS FIRSTLY THE ARAB NATION AND BASICALLY THE SONS OF THE GULF. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON THE EFFECT OF THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL ON THE MIDDLE EAST, HIS HIGHNESS SAID: THE OPENING OF THE CANAL IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE REGION. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO AMERICAN-RUSSIAN STRUGGLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PARTICULARLY MILITARY COMPETITION, AND THAT COMPETITION IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMICS SHOULD BE TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF THE REGION AND THE PROSPERITY OF ITS PEOPLES. HIS HIGHNESS SAID THE OPENING OF THE CANAL DOES NOT MEAN THE STABILITY OF THE REGION, BUT A FIRST PHASE IN THE ARAB NATION'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. STABILITY LIES IN THE REMOVAL OF THE CAUSES AND MOTIVES OF WAR IN THE REGION. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON THE EFFECT OF OPENING THE CANAL ON RELATIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION WITH COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, PARTICULARLY WITH IRAQ, HIS HIGHNESS SAID: I BELIEVE THIS CONCERNS IRAQ ALONE, AND IRAQ IS A FRATERNAL INDEPENDENT STATE AND HAS THE RIGHT TO DO WHAT IT WANTS IN ITS OWN INTEREST. UNQTE
HELMS

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